



PATENT
03824-P0040A GSW/DC

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	David C. Issler
Serial No. 10/057,503	Filing Date: January 25, 2002
Title of Application:	Footbed Plug
Confirmation No. 4327	Art Unit: 3728
Examiner	Anthony D. Stashick

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Declaration of Inventors of Prior Invention under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131

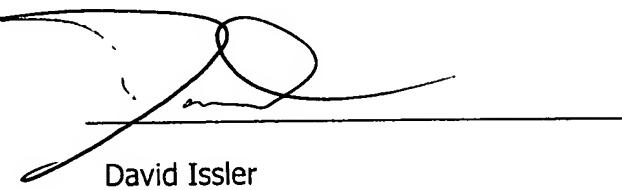
I, David Issler, declare as follows:

1. I conceived a footbed plug that employs a plug placed in an opening in an outsole at least as early as December 10, 2001, as shown by the attached dated invention disclosure.
2. The invention was constructively reduced to practice at least as early as December 7, 2001, as shown by the attached copy of a letter stating prototypes of the invention were being sent.
3. All statements in this Declaration made of my own knowledge are true and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true.
4. I understand that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both and may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patents issuing thereon.

Page 2
Serial No. 10/057,503
Declaration of Inventors

I hereby declare, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America, that the foregoing statements are true and correct.

Dated: November 30, 2004



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Issler", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'D' at the beginning.

David Issler

Fred A. Steinlauf
479 Fairfield Rd. E. Windsor, NJ. 08520

December 10, 2001

Fish & Richardson P.C.
225 Franklin Street
Boston, MA. 02110-2804
Attn. Mr. Frank Occhiuti, Esq.

DEC 12 2001

Re: New Patent Application: Softspot Construction **FRANK R. OCCHIUTI**

Dear Frank:

Above mentioned construction was invented by David Issler and is to be assigned to Columbia Insurance Co. Mr. Issler is a U.S. Citizen. You have all his personal data from previous applications.

Softspot Construction:

It has been found that, during normal ambulation the human being will step on the heel of the foot first. Hence the need for a shoe with the soft spot, located in the area of first impact.

You will receive from Lowell Shoe Corp. in Hudson, NH, probably sent by Marc Faubel, four embodiments of the same invention, as well as component parts for each, showing partially finished shoes.

Two of the embodiments showing closed toe and closed back Opankas. The third is an open back Opanka slide or step-in named "Margarita". (The name is taped on the inside of the shoe) and the fourth embodiment represents a Cement lasted Pump with a hollow heel in the sole. In this embodiment the upper is lasted over an Insole with a hole in the heel area and the heelplug of the footbed is inserted through said hole in the insole into the heel part of the outsole, which is hollowed.

In the first two embodiments the upper is cemented to the upstanding wall of the outsole and then hand-sewn to the unit bottom.

Next, the footbed is prepared on the walking surface with 'Dryz' (a patented hydrophylic foam) and a leather cover. Thereafter, the footbed is inserted into the shoe, a last is forced into the cavity and pressed, which forces the plug of the footbed into the orifice in the heel of the sole.

Fred A. Steinlauf
479 Fairfield Rd. E. Windsor, NJ. 08520

Fish & Richardson P.C.

Re: New Patent Application: Softspot Construction

Date: December 7, 2001

Page 2.

Note: The bottom walking surface or plug of the footbed will not reach the floor, being about 1.5 mm raised.

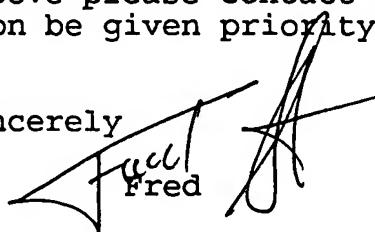
The surface of the footbed is anatomically shaped and requires a last with a bottom showing the negative of the footbed. Notice that plug of the footbed, which protrudes through the sole, is shaped like the cork of a champagne bottle and must be forced into the orifice, thus preventing water to enter through the opening. In the third embodiment (Margarita) the footbed is covered on the walking side with a soft foam, which is cemented in, followed by a leather cover, which is cemented over the side, thus forming a cushion. In order to achieve this effect the footbed has an indentation on the upper periphery to allow room for the leather cover. On the fourth embodiment the upper is cemented over an insole with an orifice in the heel area. The shoe is conventionally finished, excepting that the outsole has a hollowed heel ready to receive an insert, i.e. footbed. Said footbed again may be prepared with Dryz or other foam cover and leather.

Outsoles are molded P.U. (Polyurethane)
Footbeds are Low Durometer P.U. molded.

This invention has been shown at the shoe show in New York beginning of December of 2001.

If you have any questions re above please contact me. It is important that this application be given priority and be filed a.s.a.p.

Sincerely



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred" or "Steinlauf". It is written in a cursive, flowing style with a diagonal line through it.

cc Mr. David Issler Ms. Donna Barron

December 7, 2001

LOWELL®

Lowell Shoe, Inc. • 8 Hampshire Drive • Hudson, NH 03051 • Tel: 603-880-8900 • Fax: 603-886-8156

Fish & Richardson P. C.
225 Franklin Street
Boston, MA 02110-2804
Attn: Frank R. Occhiuti ESQ

softspot Samples
10294-607001

December 7, 2001

Dear Mr. Occhiuti

In the following boxes are the Softspots samples that Fred Steinlauf was talking to you about. If there are any questions, you can direct them to Fred.

Best regards,

Marc Faubel
Product Development Manager
Ext. 387

DEC 10 2001

FRANK R. OCCHIUTI

softspots

SUPREMES

NURSE[♥]MATES

SOLOS

To: List Below

Date Originated 12/11/01

From: FROcchiuti

Re: Conflict Memo (#74118)

Client : H.H. Brown/Domestic

Matter : Footbed Plug

Work Type : Patent Prosecution

Related Entities : Carolina Shoes
Lowell Shoe
Cove Shoe

Subject Matter : Footwear including a footbed having a plug member that extends through the heel to provide increased comfort.

Attorney List

ADSmith	AFBodendorf	AJBokal	AJHadjis	ALBrosius
ALFletcher	ALHornilla	ALKite	ALMeiklejohn	ANCathcartchapl
ANParfomak	ARKopsidas	ASOrtega	ATD'amico	ATMoosey
AWTorrance	AXPatel	AZMassari	BDDriscoll	BGJaynes
BJColandreo	BLBinder	BLPerry	BRNester	BTRacilla
BVBenoit	BXAI	BXDorini	CCBowley	CCWinchester
CEJohnson	CHLeber	CJBoudreau	CPBellon	CHieken
CQCotropia	CQSanders	CRCompton	CRSmith	CSMarchese
CTMizumoto	CXCenturelli	CZHanson	CZPeterson	CZSperry
DCKordich	DGMalone	DJGoren	DJMiclean	DJSepanik
DLFeigenbaum	DLGardner	DMCollazo	DPWhelan	DRBrillati
DRFrancescani	DSCoolidge	DSShuman	DXGrinshpun	DXKay
DXSerota	DYSimons	DZBarkan	DZDiBerardino	EABerger
EGHeilbrunn	ELPrahl	ENKaytor	ESKim	EYWang
FALichauco	FEScherkenbach	FHRabin	FPPorcelli	FROcchiuti
FXMollborn	GAMadera	GEHeibel	GHGardella	GHHennessey
GHSavitt	GLFox	GPEinhorn	GRLee	GSHarper
GXCunningham	GXMcAllister	GXWalters	HEHarvey	HGPollack
HHFox	HRTroesch	HSGwin	HZMorin	JADragseth
JAHuffman	JBDeal	JBPegram	JCADkisson	JCPhillips
JCRodgers	JDHsi	JDKelly	JDLeviton	JEgartman
JEMrose	JESinger	JFConroy	JFHayden	JFKey
JJGagel	JJKendrick	JKFraser	JLFrance	JLStevenson
JMLussier	JMSkenyon	JNWilliams	JPCaver	JPFasse
JPSchnurer	JQBrennan	JRRohlicek	JRSoderberg	JTHagler
JTMeli	JVColaianni	JVPicone	JVSciandra	JWBabineau
JWFreeman	JWSchultz	JWThornburgh	JXBarclay	JXChoi
JXFinn	JXHorvath	JXSlobodin	JXZelmanovitz	JYMizhir
JZBrooks	JZLentz	JZMcDonald	KBGeahigan	KCHunsaker
KDHine	KDMacFerin	KDPrescott	KFHorvath	KFKozik

KHartwell-Beal	KIBoyd	KJMcNeely	KKLargey	KLGlitzenstein
KMMcGuirk	KMVivian	KRPitts	KSJenckes	KXBarritt
KZDonovan	KZLutton	KZWalter	LADegnan	LAMcGrady
LITrivinos	LKKolodney	LLCrews	LLKordziel	LNGeller
LSButler	LZBuchanan	MAParsons	MBJohnson	MBLoftus
MCKnell	MDAnderson	MDKirkland	MDMosley-Goren	MEErickson
MEFlorey	METhompson	MEWadrzyk	MEYarbrough	MEZeliger
MJHebert	MJKane	MJMcKeon	MKKim	MKScott
MLGannon	MMGraham	MMMassicotte	MMTowne	MPReed
MSEllinger	MVHayes	MWLefton	MWSamuel	MYMehok
MYStolt	MZSamardzija	MZWefers	NAJohnson	NHBurke
NJMcNabnay	NQFan	NTBauz	NXGage	NXUs
NYGoldstein	OXLiivak	PALevy	PAPysher	PJDevlin
PJKirk	PKKristal	PLMyers	PZCogins	QHXU
RAHagan	RAMittelberger	RASmolinsky	RBCordell	RCLundquist
RCNabinger	RDTegtmyer	REHillman	RGGreen	RIHuang
RJAnderson	RJSuyat	RJUngar	RJZayed	RKTabtiang
RPFerrara	RSBorovoy	RVRacunas	RWWinston	RXSilverman
SALeMay	SCHarris	SCLee	SEEmrich	SFHeneghan
SHStodghill	SJFilipek	SJGrossman	SKWessels	SMSproul
SNZaslavsky	SRBaird	SRKatz	SRSchaefer	SWFlanders
SXBorodach	SXDaley	SXMacphail	SXVydas	SYBoalick
SYShirodkar	SZBlock	TABirnie	TAPorter	TARozylowicz
TDFraizer	TEGarcia	TGMahn	THPham	TLHalkowski
TMJohnston	TSEngin	TXMelsheimer	TXNguyen	TXWalsh
TZMiller	VCJohnson	VWWilliams	WDHare	WEBooth
WEHunter	WEWillenberg	WGHaser	WJEgan	WJHone
WJMarsden	WKRenner	WWGarden	WXRao	YNLuo
YRTsao				